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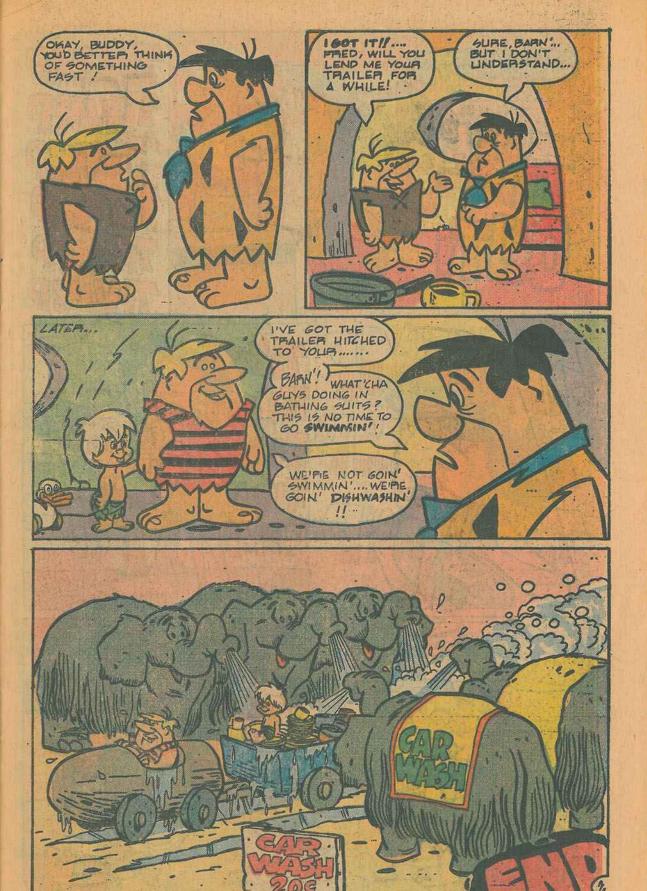








































































Captain Salty wasn't just a toy dressed up in a sailor's suit. He wasn't just a cloth doll with lots of interchangeable, aquatic equipment. Captain Salty was alive. He had feelings and emotions just like other living things. He could move around under his own power whenever he wanted to:

Captain Salty and several other, very special toys were made by an old, retired magician. The magician had gone into the toy making business. Whenever the magician made a toy, some of his old, magic power rubbed off onto his creation. The magician's toys had powers no other toys had. They were magically alive.

The living toys kept secret their magic powers and abilities. They didn't even let their owners know the wonderful things they could do. It would be too great

of a shock to the children. Adults wouldn't understand and they would be afraid of the toys. Adults would force their children to throw away the living, magic toys. In order to be safe, Captain Salty and the other toys like him only moved around late at night or when no one was watching them.

One day, Captain Salty was sitting on a shelf in the room of the little boy who owned him. Captain Salty-liked the little boy whose name was Billy.

Billy was a good boy who always took good care of his playthings and obeyed his parents. Captain Salty would do anything for the little boy except reveal his magic secret.

"Hi, Captain Salty!" shouted Billy as he skipped into his bedroom, "Tomorrow is my mether's birthday.

I'm going to empty out my piggy bank and buy her a nice present," the boy explained. Of course, Captain Salty didn't answer, but he smiled to himself at the thought of the nice thing Billy was doing.

Billy's piggy bank was on a shelf just above the aquarium where Billy kept his pet, tropical fish. Billy pushed a stool over near the fish tank. He climbed onto it. He grabbed his piggy bank and turned it upside down. He began to shake the money out.

Dimes, quarters, pennies and a few half dollars began to fall out onto the shelf, but some of them bounced off of the shelf and fell down onto the floor.



One shiny, silver, half dollar fell right into the fish tank. It floated to the sandy bottom and landed near a toy pirate ship and treasure chest.

Billy quickly gathered up the money he'd dropped. He didn't know the half dollar had fallen into the fish tank. He collected all of the other coins and sat down on his bed to count his money.

"Oh, no!" Billy exclaimed when he finished counting. "The present I want to buy Mom cost two dollars! I only have a dollar and fifty cents. Where am I going to get another fifty cents by tomorrow?" he asked himself. Billy was very sad and didn't know what to do.

Captain Salty knew what to do. He'd solve Billy's problem. Captain Salty decided to recover the fifty cents that had fallen into the fish tank.

Later that night, when everyone was asleep, Captain Salty hopped down from his shelf. He pulled his toy diving suit and miniature helmet out of the toy box. He recruited a magic Teddy Bear to help him. Captain Salty and Teddy climbed up onto the fish

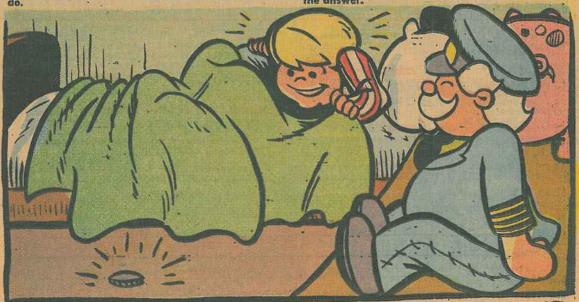


tank's ledge. Captain Salty put on the diving sult and tied a rope around his waist. "When I tug on the rope," pull me up," instructed the Captain as he screwed on his diving helmet. Teddy nodded.

The Captain dove into the aquarium. He sank deeper and deeper under the water. He finally landed on the sandy bottom. He slowly made his way towards the toy, sunken ship. He chased away curious fish that kept swimming around him. He found the toy treasure chest and saw the half dollar tangled up in some seaweed. It took several, violent tugs to free the coin from its seaweed trap.

Captain Salty smiled as he looked at the fifty centpiece. He held it firmly in his hands and tugged on the rope. Teddy Bear hauled him to the surface of the fish tank.

The following morning, Billy woke up and saw the half dollar on the floor near his bed. "Oh, boy!" he shouted as he picked it up. "This is just what I need. But, I wonder why it has pieces of seaweed all over it?" he asked. Captain Salty smiled because he knew the answer.





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